

Lancaster Intelligencer.

SATURDAY EVENING, DEC. 3, 1881.

Changes in the Statutes.

The president of the American Bar association, which meets every year in Saratoga, is charged with the duty of reviewing in his annual address the noteworthy changes in the statute law since the last meeting. This duty, if well performed, is a very great deal of importance to the legal profession, since there is no publication or digest which takes this scope. What interest can be given to such a compilation and how admirably the duty of making it may be performed, is well illustrated by the last address delivered before the association by Edward J. Phelps, of Vermont, and published in the proceedings of the fourth annual meeting. Inasmuch as only five states--Maryland, Virginia, Louisiana, Iowa and Kentucky--escaped a legislative session last year, and only California was relieved from law-making by an irrefragable dead-lock in its Assembly, no single address could digest and classify the incongruous mass of legislation imposed by the lawmakers of a single winter upon their suffering constituencies. In his address, however, President Phelps succeeded in so fully compassing the main features of the new statutes that it is worthy a place in the legal literature of the country. We are surprised that no legal publication has given it and the whole series of these yearly reviews of the statutes permanent lodgment. Their plan suggests the value, if not the necessity, of the yearly publication of some digest which would give a bird's eye view at least of the changes in the statute laws of the nation and of the thirty-eight states. Nothing can be more important to lawyers and publicists than to scan and care fully weigh the general tendencies of legislation in these days. Much of it is superogatory, some hurtful, some senseless, and a small part of it rendered necessary by the development of the country, the extension of its institutions and the increasing variety of our interests. Little that swells the statutory year books is due to the enlarged intelligence of legislators, and much is monumental of their folly and short-sightedness. Chiefly by way of warning is the history of statute making to be studied with profit.

In reviewing the legislation of last year Mr. Phelps finds only two federal acts of special interest, territorial land grants for future universities and the establishment of international comity in the registry of trade marks. In the states there have been numerous laws made for the better protection of human life, restricting the sale and practice of medicine, providing against damages from fire, water and railroad accidents, but no marked advance has been made in the laws against murder adequate to compensate for the facilities offered for the escape of the accused, by making capital offenders witnesses for themselves in Michigan, Mississippi, West Virginia and New Jersey--wives in the latter state now being allowed to testify for their husbands. The protection of public health, the restriction of the spread of epidemics, the prevention of food and drink adulteration; laws in behalf of public morals, against gambling, pool selling, lotteries, obscene literature, and for more stringent regulation of the sale of liquors, by means more or less moderate--"Blount's Springs" being always excepted from the operation of Alabama's new law--have been subjects engaging attention. Gradually the powers of women to participate in public affairs and their rights in their husband's estates and to the control of their own have been enlarged. Mr. Phelps deprecating the general tendency of ill-constructed and hostile statutes to establish the theory that the husband is the antagonist against whom the wife chiefly needs protection. It is probably the degeneracy of man and a general dissolute ness of society, not the statutes, which have brought about the condition for which they are intended to be remedial. We agree with the president of the Bar association that statutes cannot restore the "old-fashioned sacredness" and "indissoluble obligation" of marriage, but new legislation may be rendered necessary by the altered relations resulting from the new conditions of society. Unhappily this is the case. It is satisfactory to see that the cause of education engages a considerable share of the attention of legislators. In dealing with the question many of them play with edged tools, and a great many crude statutes on this subject are the result. Mr. Phelps indulges in a vein of pleasantry and flashes of humor throughout his speech, never transgressing the decorum of his position nor forgetting the gravity of his task, but one of the late statutes of Minnesota, regulating the course of instruction in its public schools, is well calculated to disturb his dignity. According to a law in that state it is required "that in all schools instruction in the elements of social and moral science shall be given, including industry, order, economy, punctuality, patience, self-denial, health, purity, temperance, cleanliness, honesty, truth, politeness, peace, fidelity, philanthropy, self-respect, hope, perseverance, cheerfulness, courage, self-reliance, gratitude, pity, mercy, kindness, conscience, reflection and the will. Oral lessons upon one of these topics to be given every day, and the pupils required to furnish illustrations of the same upon the following morning." We commend the comprehensiveness of this scheme to the best persevering normal schools of Pennsylvania and to the most ambitious universities of the East.

The limitation of the powers of municipal corporations is assuming very great importance, and as usual Ohio is to the front with the greatest novelty in the way of legislative devices empowering counties, cities, towns and villages to engage in various enterprises. The scheme of the Buckeye statesmen is to enact that any town having a population of a certain exact number be vested with certain authority, no other than that intended to be reached having that exact population. This is an extension of the device by which Philadelphia and Pittsburgh are legislated for in general terms in this state as respectively cities of the "first and second class" when in fact there are no others in their several classes. With the decision of the supreme court of Michigan denying the power of municipalities to lend

A Roman Holiday.

A Tale of Ancient Rome.

CHAPTER I.

Rome was yet glorious; but it was not the glory of her earlier days. Prosperity had enervated, and luxury debased, her populace, whose venal practices in governmental and social affairs broadly displayed, what they affected to despise, a disposition of cowardice, ill-suited to the name and attributes of a Roman citizen. And when the prodigal and exquisitely-coined Carinus, with his brother, assumed control of the Roman empire, he found in the Romans a people ever ready for a display of their vanity, and the gratification of their desire for rich amusement.

History has ascended to record but little of the administration of Carinus, except his exhibitions and games of the amphitheatre, and the circus, which, it is considered, exceeded in pomp and magnificence the spectacles of former days. But tradition of times adds an event, which, though founded on truth, and embellished by fiction, can amuse, though it may fail to instruct, the mind of a philosopher or a savant.

It was a day of joy and hilarity in Rome. A hundred gladiators were to contend in the arena of the Colosseum, that mighty subject of ancient splendor and modern wonder, and the fair and heroic land of Greece was represented in the amphitheatre score of them were assembled. There was no token of fear about them; fate had initiated, and victory confirmed, their vocation, and they were, with the exception of one, gladiators by profession. Negligently scattered about the arena, they were scanning the faces of their opponents, and the gladiators were to contend in the arena of the Colosseum, that mighty subject of ancient splendor and modern wonder, and the fair and heroic land of Greece was represented in the amphitheatre score of them were assembled.

In a corner, apart from his companions, stood a youth, whose symmetrical form, noble carriage, closely-clustering hair and fine features, at once stamped him as a perfect type of the true Greek. Unlike the rest, he was attired in a robe of soft skins, falling from the neck to the feet, and fastened and made to fit closely by a broad leather belt around the waist. He had stood so long, alone and silent, that he had become a familiar sight to the spectators, and a powerful-built man, the acknowledged leader of the Greek gladiators, advanced and addressed him with:

"In truth, youngster, you must love silence. Surely Hypocrites claims you at this moment." "Why so?" returned the youth, "I should not be but one of the gods rule here." "Returned the youth, evasively, in a musically modulated voice.

"Yes, let Comus reign alone," shouted the gladiator, boisterously. "I would not let these foppish and soft-brained Romans behold me before they have seen me in the arena of fate. No, per Hercule, we are Greeks, and worth a thousand Romans!" "Aggeus is continually cursing the Romans; yet he swears in Latin," remarked a savage-looking gladiator, as he reclined easily upon the floor.

"These many years I have been in the service of Rome have made me careless of which language I use," said Aggeus, ironically. "But cheer up, Sosthenes," he continued, addressing the young Greek. "The gods are propitious to the fortunate, always." "You are to the fortunate," remarked Sosthenes, slowly. "But with whom do you contend?" "Oh," replied Aggeus, carelessly. "I am told a most sturdy and valiant Goth tries my mettle to-day. And you?" "With no one," replied the youth, and he allowed me to enter here with you and your comrades," replied Sosthenes.

"By Jupiter, you are bold," exclaimed Aggeus. "If they find you here, you will fare badly. But hark that din. The emperor has arrived, and a general and a lady are looking on impatiently for the gladiator's blood. I tell thee, comrades, this shall be a long and warm sport, and we can trust only to our skill and the favor of the gods for success. But where's Sosthenes?"

Every gladiator leaped to his feet, and peered into the corner where the young Greek had stood; he was gone. "Well, he's a queer one," at length exclaimed their leader. "Even while my back was to him, he vanished, like a ghost. I wonder how he got here." "Further words were interrupted by the heavy door being swung open, and the gladiators saw a file of soldiers stationed at either side of the entrance. A keeper entered with attendants, who placed in the hands of the gladiators their weapons. Not all, however, were thus given arms. Aggeus was to remain until the hour came when he should meet, in single and deadly combat, a captive Goth, doomed to the arena.

"Well, my comrades," exclaimed their leader, as he filed from the apartment; "and may the gods protect you." And their last farewell that Aggeus heard came bravely back, "ole!"

Left alone with the great door closed upon him, Aggeus threw himself upon the floor, and looked upward, he then continued: "It will interest a good many of your readers, and help a good cause; besides, we have spent so much money getting up our entertainment that we can't afford to advertise it without increasing the price of the tickets. In such a matter as this we ought to be willing to help each other."

"Well," said the editor, "if it goes into the local column, I suppose you would reciprocate by reading a little notice in each next Sunday." The visiting brother asked what notice and the editor wrote and handed him the following: "The Daily INTELLIGENCER for the coming year will be the best and cheapest family paper in Pennsylvania. Its price of five cents is a small one, and all the helps which a large outlay of money can procure. This paper is furnished at only ten cents a week. It is certain that no one can spend that amount to a better advantage. Be sure to take the INTELLIGENCER and subscribe for your friends."

The manager, bemused and hesitated, and then said solemnly that he doubted whether it would be judicious to read such a notice, but suggested that if it was printed, copies of it might be distributed at the door on the evening of the entertainment. "Yes," said the editor, "but it would attract more attention in the middle of the sermon. It will interest a large number of your congregation and help a good cause, and besides so much money is spent upon the INTELLIGENCER that I don't see how we can afford to print handbills to advertise it without increasing the subscription price. In such a matter as this we ought to be willing to help each other."

Then the gentleman saw the situation. It is positively announced that a company has been organized in New York for supplying the Eastern cities with gas manufactured at the coal mines in Western Pennsylvania, and conducted to the places of consumption through a system of pipes. Mr. John Hoey, of the Adams express company, is said to be a heavy stockholder. The New York organization is said to be in negotiation with a Philadelphia company for the use of a system of cold-packed pipe-joint, by which it is claimed that \$1,500,000 would be saved in the cost of the lead used in making the joints, and bridging dispensed with.

When a Chicago preacher was a new church all his own, and a big congregation, he has himself convicted of heresy.

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CHAPTER II.

"The curse," muttered that personage to his attendant, "is upon us. We shall have to be watchful. The best thing is to mingle with the crowd." Sosthenes bowed assent, and they joined the mob with equal clamors. The throng pressed to the palace, and soon the two Greeks found themselves, with many others, within the vestibule. At that instant the cry "The guards!" was heard, and a moment later a legion of soldiers were amongst the excited people, forcing them from the palace, to the street. Aggeus was about to follow the crowd, when he felt his arm clutched, and turning he saw a soldier pointing to a doorway, before which hung heavy folds of tinted velvet.

"We will remain in this place, and may escape detection by going in there," whispered Sosthenes, hurriedly. They were quickly behind the velvet screen, and discovered themselves in a small apartment, from the end of which a narrow stairway ascended, that being the only means of egress from a place, in which their liability of capture determined their actions. It was but the work of a minute to mount the stairway, and the two Greeks were in the apartments designed for the occupancy of the imperial servants.

"It is not safe to go there," whispered Sosthenes, as they halt. "Nor safe to remain here," returned the gladiator, "and I have no choice but to go down." Aggeus retraced the passage a few yards, and suddenly utters a low exclamation, which brings his companion to his side. "See," exclaimed the former; "we have passed another entrance. Here is a way leading from the palace to a low door, screened by folds of velvet. Sosthenes followed the motion, and exclaimed:

"By Jupiter, these Roman emperors have passages everywhere in their palaces. We will enter this; perchance it will lead to the arena, and then we must be silent and cautious, and may Angeronia attend us." Slowly he moved aside the screen, and they saw, to their great satisfaction and surprise, not an open apartment, light and airy, but a narrow way, dark, lined by a thick carpet, and opening into a room, the vestibule, at the end of which, into another apartment. Silently they enter, traverse this way, until they draw near the entrance mentioned, when they halt.

"Let us decide, before we go further, what course to pursue," said Sosthenes. "We must pass that open doorway, and do so, as if it were a solid wall. The room into which it leads, or what is still worse, it may be guarded." "But to where do you think this passage we are in will conduct us?" asked Aggeus. "With no more prominent part of the palace, perhaps," answered the young Greek; "and in that case, we are sure to be discovered and captured."

It was not, however, feasible or safe to remain where they were, and the two Greeks were compelled to proceed, no matter what further events would naturally follow. They were about to enter the room, when they were observed by the sentinels. They could only surmise that they were but two to encounter, but the sentinels were not to be deceived. Their cause was honor, and death alone could end the attempt. They crept on a minute longer, then, with the bound of a panther, each sprang upon his man, even as the challenge issued from the guards' lips. Sosthenes felt the sharp point of his sword pierce his arm, but he tore the weapon from the Roman's grasp, and the Greek's dagger sank to his heart. Fortune still more favored the gladiator, whose onset was so fierce and successful, that the sentinel had not time to use his lance, and he, in an instant, lay on the floor. Here the Greeks could exchange words, they heard quick steps behind them, and turning, found themselves in deadly encounter with two other guards. All unprepared for this new attack, they might have been overcome, had it not been for their antagonists, when they were in the distance, and a Roman tribune dashed into the apartment, and drawing a dagger, plunged it into the breast of Sosthenes' foe. The gladiator's strength and training again won him his victory. Sosthenes entered the vestibule, and said: "I know you; you are here to rescue the Grecian girl; I to revenge my wrongs. The palace is alarmed, and we dare not remain here. I know where we can be concealed until night, then accomplish our purposes."

As the tribune spoke, he rushed towards the end of the passage, closely followed by the two Greeks. On through a stately room, into another passage, through that to a flight of stairs, leading downward, into a chilly, underground passage, and into a dark, vaulted chamber, the heavy door, which they closed, as the yells of the soldiers echoed to their ears. "Safe! thank the gods," exclaimed the tribune, as he rested against the wall of the dungeon. "Where is Aggeus?" "He has been met by Cressida, and told his love. In his devout thankfulness and joy, rich sacrifices and precious libations were offered to the god of love, who seemed to rain the choicest blessings on the lovers' lives. But now had some misfortune, and it made him chafe like a new-caged bird, because she was a Greek, and his honor could not leave her to her fate, but because she was to him the queen of Grecian women. He had come from the sacred soil of Sparta, to the elegance of Athens, and in that home of wisdom and art he had met Cressida, and told his love. In his devout thankfulness and joy, rich sacrifices and precious libations were offered to the god of love, who seemed to rain the choicest blessings on the lovers' lives. But now had some misfortune, and it made him chafe like a new-caged bird, because she was a Greek, and his honor could not leave her to her fate, but because she was to him the queen of Grecian women. He had come from the sacred soil of Sparta, to the elegance of Athens, and in that home of wisdom and art he had met Cressida, and told his love. In his devout thankfulness and joy, rich sacrifices and precious libations were offered to the god of love, who seemed to rain the choicest blessings on the lovers' lives. 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